

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Following is the text of a letter from Alan R. Miskimin (#202-LM8):

"The Perfin exhibit I show around the States is entitled "U. S. Perforated Control Markings." It will never win a grand prize because it was designed to acquaint fellow collectors that there is another facet to their philatelic endeavors - that of collecting stamps with perforated designs, initials or numbers cut into them.

"On a few occasions my exhibit has met with severe criticism because of the word "control." It seems the judges feel the word "control" should only be used to refer to the companies with many Branch offices in various cities. These companies have added one or two perforations to their original design to pin point the city with their branch office.

"When consulting Webster's definition of the word "control," I found the following: "To exercise the authority or dominating influence over; to direct, verify, dominate or curb. To evaluate with respect to limits, regulate, hold in restraint." I now quote from the U. S. Postal Regulation dated 4 May 1908, subject Perforating Postage Stamps for Identification Purposes: 'Firms, individuals and commercial organizations have reported serious loss through theft and pilferage of their stamps. As of the above date, they are authorized to perforate or puncture their stamps with letters, numerals or other marks for the purpose of identification and protection from theft.'

"In the new Perfin catalog, page 523, paragraphs 9 and 16, Mr. K. F. Lougee writes: 'the control marking as a precaution against pilferage' and 'the number assigned to each control design is determined by position.' It is understood that he considers the entire design as a control marking by a particular company to secure their stamps against theft. However, it should be mentioned that in the new catalog each full page illustration of companies with many branch offices, the inference is that these added holes to the original design, give the meaning that the word "control" is only to be used for companies with multiple branch offices in various cities.

"It is my belief and opinion that some precise clarification should be given by competent and able persons in the field of Perfin collecting. It is also my feeling that such an opinion should be published whereby all persons acting as judges can obtain this definite set of rules and regulations, thus preventing any future exhibit from undue criticism and censorship."